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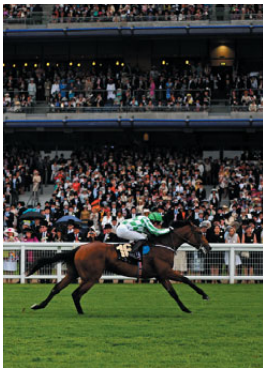

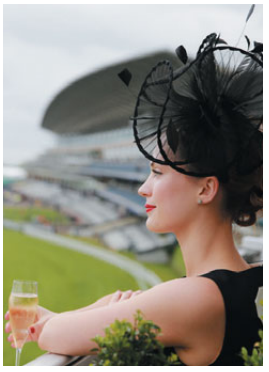

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Logistics Manager **Ryan Michael**
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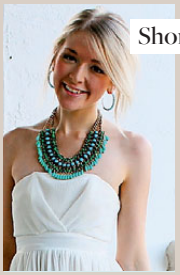
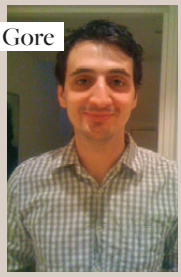
Take a seat as we round up the best local culinary hotspots for 2014

This month's contributors



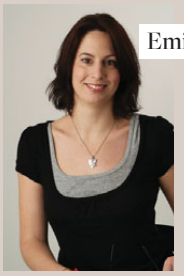
Shona Wallace

Shona is a rising star in the world of fashion journalism. She has a sparkling blog at sw-fashion.net and in this issue recommends the best in the way of New Year knits, and the classy handbags to accompany them.



Will Gore

Will Gore is a freelance arts journalist who has lived in London his entire life. His specialist subjects are films and theatre, and when he's not scribbling he can normally be found at Griffin Park cheering on Brentford FC.



Emily Manson

A born-and-bred 'Chiswickian', Emily worked for the likes of Anton Mosimann before turning 'journo'. Since then she's written for titles including *Caterer* and *The Guardian*, and suggests the four local restaurants that will be must visits in 2014.

Come dining

So you've spent nigh on two weeks feasting on festive goodies and doing nothing in the way of exercise. What you need from us is a little inspiration to get back into shape, right? Well… rather than worrying too much about the waistline, we actually wanted to kick start a new year by looking at the culinary hotspots around Richmond, and celebrating the chefs who are turning our area into a real foodie destination. Tuck in from page 42.

Richmond Theatre has long been a reason to bring people into TW9, and this month highly acclaimed The Pride opens there. We have managed to track down one of the stars, Mathew Horne, to find out what he's expecting when the play opens at the local landmark. Of course, we don't shirk on looking good for 2014, so read all about the Barnes local bringing plenty of style to the world of handbags.

And if things are already getting too much for you, don't miss Kat Hopps review of Mauritius on page 52. That's one way of making it a happy new year!

Vicky

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Editor, The Richmond Resident

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LOCAL LIFE

This month's essential news from your neighbourhood

The Richmond resident LOVES

First World War Talk

2014 marks the centenary year of the start of the First World War and to mark this, the Richmond and Twickenham branch of the Historical Association are presenting They Won't Be Home By Christmas: the build up to the First World War and its first six months, a talk by Paula Kitching on the beginnings of the Great War. Paula, an expert on war studies, has worked with the London Jewish Cultural Centre for over 15 years and was advisor to the Department of Education. The talk at the Vestry Hall is only £2 and it promises to be a fascinating, thought-provoking evening.

✤ 23 January 8pm at The Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road TW9 1SA. To find out more visit pcsd.co.uk/rha. No booking required.

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@richmond_res

If you are on Twitter then follow us to find out about what we are up to and tweet us if you have any local news stories you think are worth a mention. We are on @richmond_res and are waiting to hear from you!

The Richmond Resident

If you are more of a Facebook person then please visit our Facebook page and if you like what you see, click on the like button and look out for new stories, images and fun stuff to share with your local friends.

Local charity Bluebird Care recently took a group of residents to Richmond Theatre to watch Claire Sweeney and John Thomson in *September in the Rain*. After the show, Claire and John came out to meet the group to support Silver Sunday: a national initiative to raise awareness about loneliness amongst older people. Director of Bluebird Care, Maria Leonard, said, 'We were keen to get involved with Silver Sunday because we provide care to a lot of people over 65 in our community.'

✤ bluebirdcare.co.uk/uk_office/about/richmond__twickenham

Not just *This Morning...* but every morning

Marilyn Stowe is the senior partner at Stowe Family Law and is also known for her 'Divorce Clinic' on ITV's This Morning.

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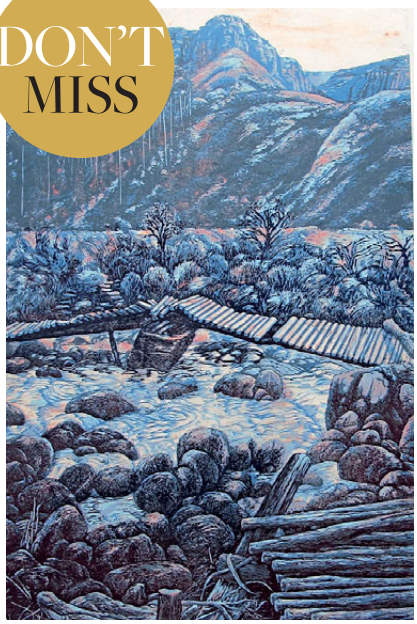

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This free exhibition by Richmond Printmakers shows how different artists can take the same subject and produce a wide range of results. All the works on display use printmaking techniques, from etching to linocutting, to give a flavour of the skill that printmakers have and the variety that they can use in their work. Until 19 January.

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✤ 7 January at Lyric Theatre, tickets £12 and £15. For more information and to book go to lyric.co.uk

Musical

MAGIC OF MOTOWN

For a dose of infectious fun and nostalgia, head to Richmond Theatre on 18 January for *The Magic of Motown*, packed with hits from Detroit legends including The Supremes, Marvin Gaye and more. The show is an extravaganza of brilliant dance moves and dazzling costumes accompanied by the fantastic Magic of Motown band.

✤ atgtickets.com

BIRDWATCHING

What better way to blow away the Christmas cobwebs than with a walk around Richmond Park? And you can learn a new skill while you do: on 18 January Peter Burrows-Smith is hosting an introduction to birdwatching, starting with a short talk and then a walk.

✤ Tickets £6. To book contact Sue Gibbons on 020 8549 8975 or sue.gibbons@npl.co.uk

CINEMA

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: CORIOLANUS 30 JANUARY

Donmar Warehouse's critically acclaimed production of *Coriolanus* is being broadcast at Richmond's Curzon cinema on 30 January. Shakespeare's tale of political intrigue in Ancient Rome features Tom Hiddleston as Coriolanus, best known for his screen roles in Marvel's *The Avengers* and Steven Spielberg's *War Horse*, and Mark Gatiss as Menenius. With only one screening, this is the last chance to see this great production.

✤ For more information and to book visit curzoncinemas.com/cinemas/richmond

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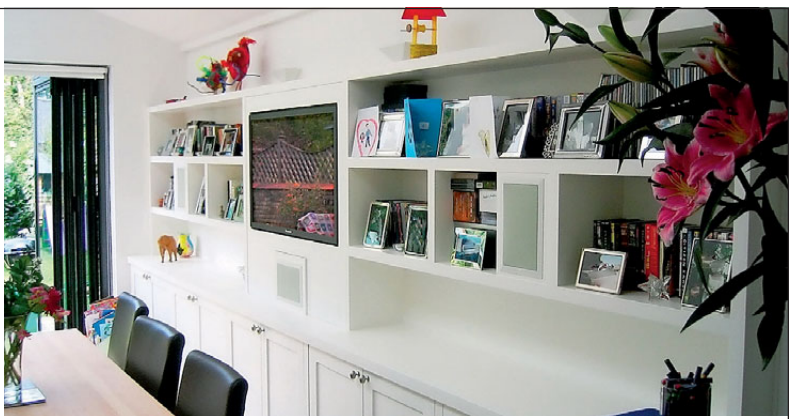

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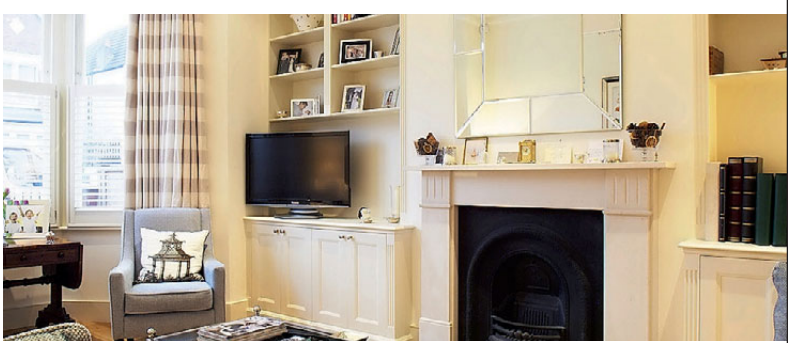

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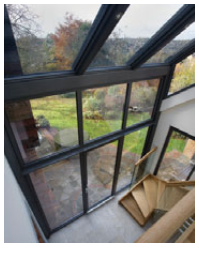

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Twist in the tale

Elliot Tucker explores celebrated British novelist Charles Dickens' links to Hounslow, both in fiction and real life

Think of Charles Dickens and a snowy 'olde London town' probably springs to mind or maybe the narrow, poverty ridden alleyways of the Victorian East End. Hounslow however is probably not high on your Dickensian settings list. Yet west London, and Hounslow in particular, were a big part of Dickens' work and the setting for scenes in some of his most well known novels.

Dickens' association with West London began aged 18 when working as a clerk at Lincolns Inn. There he met solicitor Thomas Mitton and the two established a firm friendship. Mitton lived at North Villa on Lampton Road, Hounslow, and owned several other properties in the area. Dickens frequently visited his friend and solicitor in Hounslow and was quite taken with the area, so much so that during the summer of 1838 he rented 4 Ailsa Park Villas in St Margaret's, which was then part of the Isleworth parish. He is reputed to have written parts of his best-known novels *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Oliver Twist* here. Hounslow was also an important staging point on the route from London to the West Country and as Dickens was a frequent visitor to Bath he would regularly pass through Chiswick, Brentford and Isleworth. The contrast between the smoggy stench of central London and the green expanse of her environs, in such a short journey, was not lost on Dickens.

When Bill Sykes takes the young Oliver Twist to burgle a Chertsey house he sees a cart displaying the word 'Hounslow' on it and asks the driver to take them to Isleworth. 'Kensington, Hammersmith, Chiswick, Kew Bridge, Brentford, were all passed; and yet they went on as steadily… they came to a public-house called the Coach and Horses; a little way beyond which, another road appeared to run off. And here, the cart stopped.' The Coach and Horses pub that appears here still stands on the A315 London Road and the road that 'appeared to run off' is the intersection at Bush Corner.

When Martin, the protagonist of *Martin Chuzzlewit,* wishes to leave London he hitches a lift with a stagecoach driver who is going to 'Hounslow, ten miles this side London…'. One of the many coaching inns on Hounslow High Street is Martin's eventual destination. Whilst in *Hard Times* Dickens describes how Signor Jupe enacts the famous 18th century comic poem 'the laughable hippo-comedietta of The Tailor's Journey to Brentford.'

In the short story *As the Crow Flies* a celebrated Isleworth pub gets a mention as Dickens describes, 'the ghosts of Hogarth's time seem for ever grouped around the doorway of that quaint inn, The London Apprentice.' And in *Pickwick Papers* Sam Weller sings about 'Bold Turpin vunce, on Hounslow Heath...' a theme continued in *A Tale of Two Cities* as the Lord Mayor of London is accosted on Turnham Green; both a nod to the highwaymen that still terrorised Dickens' route out of London.

Hounslow and much of West London may not be the quintessential Dickensian setting one might imagine. However there was a time when these unassuming areas provided fertile literary ground, and even a home, for one of the greatest British authors.

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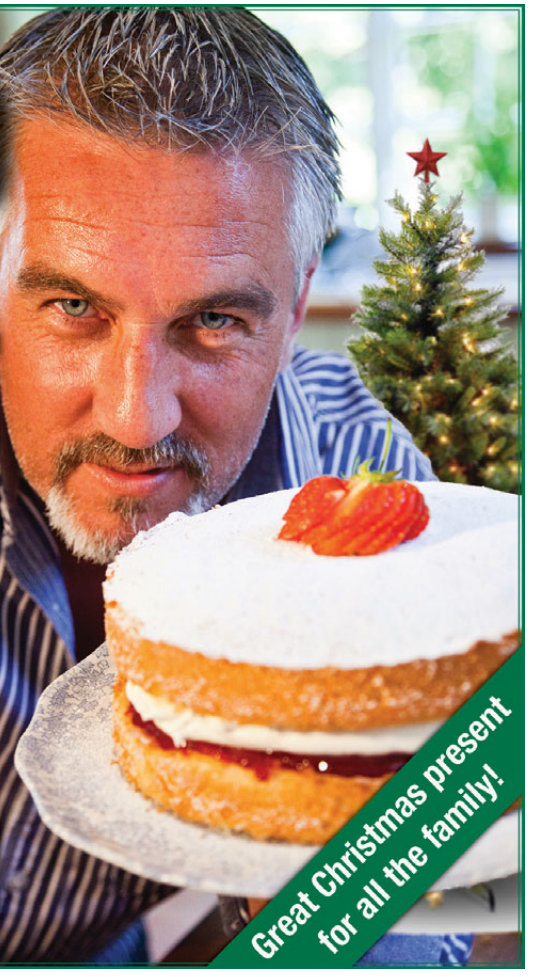

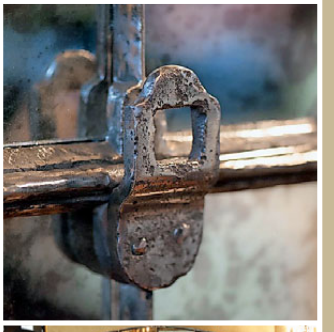

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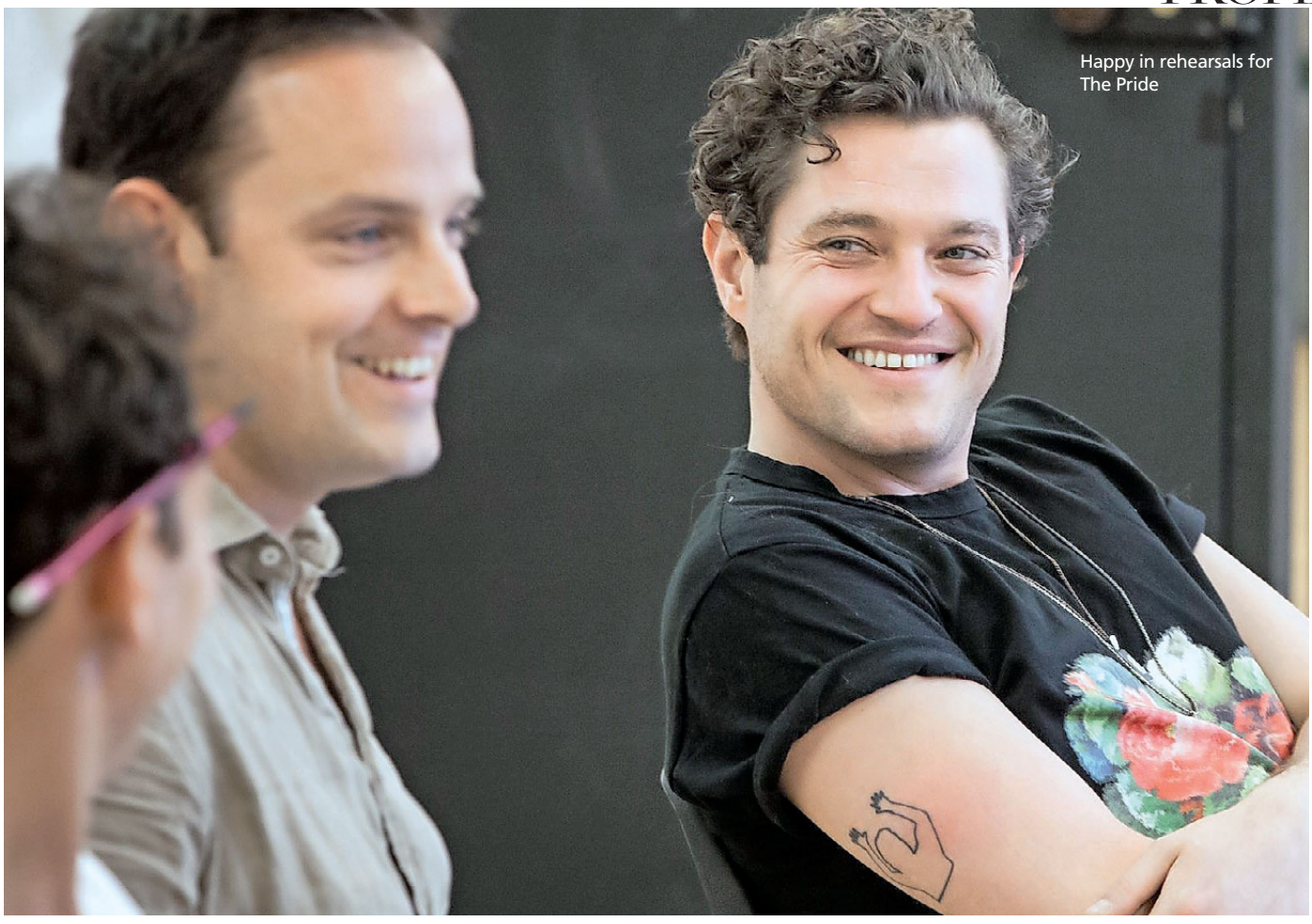

Happy in rehearsals for The Pride

Pride of RICHMOND

Fans of Gavin and Stacey should expect to find a very different side to Mathew Horne around town this month, discovers Will Gore

My first attempt at interviewing Mathew Horne didn't quite go according to plan. Back in November during the acclaimed West End run of The Pride, which will be calling in at Richmond Theatre this month, I put in a call to him a couple of hours before an evening performance.

Unfortunately, the comfort of his dressing room proved too much and the Gavin and Stacey star dozed off, missing my calls. It was not until a couple of days later that we finally got to chat, when a wide-awake and enthusiastic interviewee gave me a ring to discuss his current theatre project.

The Pride tells two stories, one set in the 1950s and the other in modern times, which chart society's changing attitudes to homosexuality. In the historical section, two men, Oliver and Philip, attempt to deal with their secret relationship while keeping it hidden from the latter's wife. At the start of the present day story, we find another couple, also called Oliver and Philip, just at the point when their relationship is breaking down. To say too much more would spoil the experience of watching these plots unfold and overlap.

Mathew fits in as three different supporting characters, including a sinister doctor and a lads' mag editor. However, it is his entering the fray dressed as a Nazi that grabs the most attention. As with the rest of the plot it would be unfair to explain exactly who this character is and what he's doing there, but when the truth does reveal itself, it's a neat comic moment and one that grabbed Mathew instantly when he first read the script.

> There's a huge theatre following in Richmond, so it's great to be bringing the play out to them

'When I was reading the play, I felt it had a nice start with its Terence Rattigan-like dialogue,' he explains. 'And then this character walks on in a Nazi uniform and I thought, "Oh no, this is not going to work". But there's this big reveal and it really kicks off from there.'

The Pride was written by Alexi Kaye Campbell and was originally performed at the Royal Court in 2008. It's a mixture of sharp comedy, social commentary and dark (and on one occasion very violent) drama. This revival received a series of well-deserved rave reviews during its run at the Trafalgar Studios and Mathew welcomed the opportunity to take it out of the West End and on tour.

'I know there's a huge theatre following in Richmond and it's great to be bringing the play out to them,' he says. 'It will be interesting to see how people react compared to our West End audiences. Hayley [Atwell, who plays both female parts] is leaving and we'll have a new cast member so that will be a fresh twist. We are also going to Brighton and Manchester, places that

have large gay communities, so we should do well there, too.'

Although Mathew raises this latter point about the production attracting gay audiences, he's also adamant that The Pride is a universal story, a play that speaks to and about everyone. 'I don't think it's in any way an agit-prop piece of theatre and it doesn't affect you any more or less whether you are gay or not. The idea of being true to yourself runs through the play, which is reflective of whatever sexuality you are.'

Despite the seriousness of The Pride's subject matter, Mathew and his female co-star have been keeping things light-hearted backstage by playing pranks on each other. A video did the rounds on social media of Mathew scaring his co-star by jumping out at her in a terrifying Halloween outfit. I'm sorry to hear, though, that as the West End run was winding down, so were the practical jokes ('They've stopped because we are all so tired and they take a lot of planning,' Mathew laughs)

With the cast of Bad Education

Gavin and Stacey: award winner and national institution

This love of comedy has been in evidence throughout Mathew's career. He started as a stand-up, before breaking into TV via Sheen resident Catherine Tate's sketch series. He has performed in two previous stage productions, Entertaining Mr Sloane in 2009 and Charley's Aunt last year, and inevitably, fans of his TV work, particularly Gavin and Stacey, have come to see him perform in the theatre. As he points out, those that know him for his TV comedy should brace themselves for an intense night if they buy tickets for The Pride.

> Regardless of my different characters, other aspects of the play are not what you'd get in your Gavin and Stacey box set

'Regardless of my different characters, the other aspects of the play are not what you'd get in your Gavin and Stacey box set,' he says. 'Some people really like seeing me doing different things, but others definitely don't get it. But it's seven years since I started doing that show, I was in my 20s and I'm now 35. Things are now very different for me and I have to move on in my career.'

And move on he certainly has. Once The Pride tour is complete, Mathew hopes to filmed a new series of another of his sitcom hits, Bad Education. There's also another sitcom in the offing that will see him team up with Catherine Tate once again, and he'd also love to do another play later in the year. Saying that, there continues to be rumblings that Gavin and Stacey may well return one day, given the huge demand for a return to the wonderful world of Billericay and Barry.

Perhaps sating that appetite for the time being, another of his goals is to appear on stage with his Gavin and Stacey mucker, James Corden. He jokes that this can only happen when his mate 'finishes being a Hollywood film star'. Even if Mathew does have to wait a while for that reunion, he's clearly got plenty to keep himself busy with in the meantime.

✤ The Pride, Richmond Theatre, 27 January - 1 February; atgtickets.com

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Interiors NEWS

FUTURE CONCEPTS

BoConcept have unveiled their hotly anticipated new designs, shapes and colours for 2014. New designs are a given, but never-before-seen combinations are dotted throughout the collection. Colours and materials from the past are redefined and merged for completely new solutions. The fusion of contrasts are seen in mixing warm with cold, natural with metal, wood with neon, raw with polished, and north with south. Experience the new Carlton sofa, a contemporary classic, or the new iconic chair, Hamilton; tables in new shapes and combinations; or the cool all-in-one desk with the name Cupertino that may have a classic look, but comes with modern functionality.

✣ The Roundhouse, 20 Eden Street KT1 1EP; 020 8546 6050; boconcept.co.uk

LIGHTING THE WAY

Leading fixtures and fittings specialist, Holloways of Ludlow, are delighted to display in their Richmond and Brook Green showrooms an eclectic range of new and exclusive lighting collections from around the world. Exclusively on display are eco-friendly lighting designs from internationally acclaimed New Zealand-based designer, David Trubridge, whose designs are created using sustainably managed bamboo and timber, and are inspired by his travels across the world.

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✣ 36 Friar's Stile Road, Richmond TW10 6NQ; 020 8332 9442 / 121 Shepherds Bush Road, Brook Green W6 7LP; 020 7602 5757; hollowaysofludlow.com

TRADITIONAL VALUES

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✣ See more at trunkhome.co.uk

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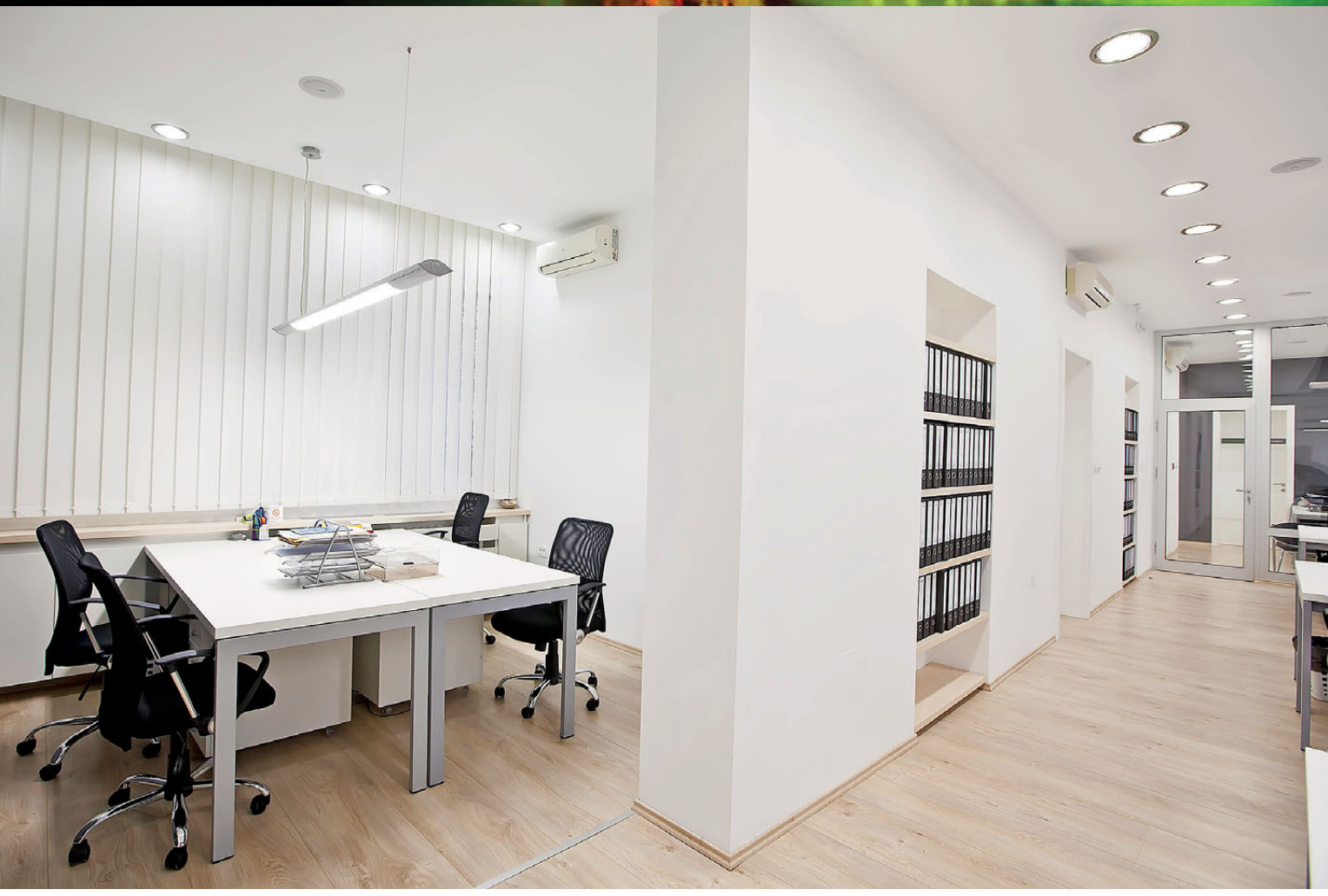

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> Are you renovating your home? Replacing your door can make an instant stunning impact to a tired interior or exterior

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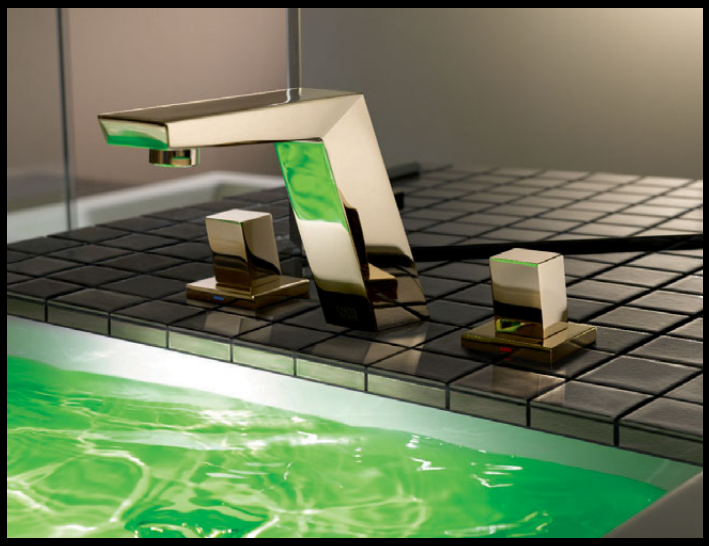

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Food NEWS

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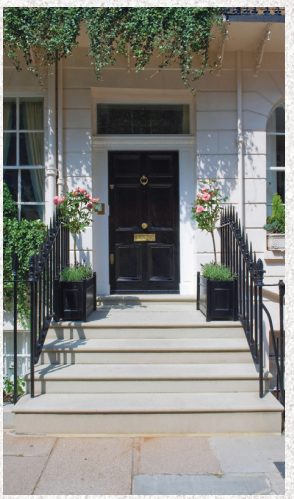

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Tom Parker Bowles

The New Year looks like being a terrific one for the London restaurant scene – just don't mention trends

Trends, eh? Is Mexico the new Peru? Will pickles punch out baking? To be honest, I couldn't care less. I hate the idea of culinary fashion, an ephemeral notion if there ever were one. A good restaurant, with fine food, proper service and soul, will outlast any transient hotspot that burns bright for a few months before slinking away into empty obscurity. So if you're looking for the next hip and happening place, then go elsewhere.

But 2014 is laden with restaurants opening, both big and small. I still believe that the capital is the best place to eat on earth. Nowhere, not even New York, has the thrilling diversity that London has, and the sheer mass of quality too. At the top end, the big news is that Simon Rogan is taking over the main restaurant at Claridge's, replacing Gordon Ramsay. This is an inspired choice, as he's a brilliant chef who mixes precise technique with huge imagination, along with an obsession with local ingredients. This is THE opening of the year.

Another top tier chef, Nuno Mendes, will be manning the stoves at uber-hotelier André Balazs' new hotel in Marylebone. Expect high-end cooking, wonderful flavours and a plethora of strange shaped plates. Mendes is one hell of a cook and, paired with Balaz, expect tables to be rarer than a unbearded Dalstonian. Another hugely talented chef is Skye Gyngell, late of Petersham Nurseries. Details are still sketchy, but she'll be bringing her elegant, and intensely seasonal cooking, to a new restaurant in town. She's been away too long, so good to have her back.

Then there are the old hands, great London restaurateurs who are constantly expanding their empires. This is no bad thing, as we, the punter, are the grinning beneficiaries. Alan Yau, the genius behind Hakkasan, Yauatcha and Naamyaa Café, is opening Duck and Rice, a Chinese gastropub on Berwick Street in Soho, plus a slightly smarter, more upmarket place, Chinois on Dover Street. The man rarely puts a foot wrong. Where Yau leads, thousands follow.

Alan Yau will be expanding his spice empire in 2014

> A restaurant with fine food, service and soul will outlast any transient hotspot that burns bright for a few months

Des McDonald follows up the success of The Fish and Chip Shop with two new openings

The same can be said for the kings of the London restaurant scene, Chris Corbin and Jeremy King. The duo behind The Wolseley, Colbert, The Delaunay and Brasserie Zedel are about to unveil The Beaumont, their first hotel venture. Situated in the heart of Mayfair, expect their usual high standards to apply.

Russell Norman and Richard Beatty might not have owned restaurants for quite as long as Corbin and King, but they're masters, no doubt about it. Within the space of a few years, they've opened Polpo, Polpetto, Da Polpo, Mishkins and Spuntino. Most don't accept bookings (the pair were the pioneers of this, yup, trend), yet they're constantly rammed. Ape and Bird, a pub on Shaftsbury Avenue, is set to open any moment now. As is the new Polpetto on Berwick Street, with the immensely gifted Florence Knight back behind the burners. Expect wonderful regional Italian cooking and queues stretching around the block. They are also opening a Polpo on Notting Hill Gate. At long last, West Londoners can get a taste of this Venetian inspired institution.

We've all been waiting with bated breath, and rumbling bellies, for the second branch of the Hart brothers' Barrafina restaurant. The original, in Soho, is utterly sublime. The new branch opens next year in Covent Garden. Cause for celebration indeed.

As is news of ex-Caprice Holdings head honcho Des McDonald's new place, Q. A few years back, those of us craving proper American barbeque had to go hungry, living on smoke tinged memories of the real thing. Then Pitt Cue came along and sated our pulled pork and rib urge. Let's hope that Q is every bit as ye haw authentic. Knowing McDonald, it will impress. He's also opening the Holborn Dining room in the rather sexy new Rosewood Hotel. Think British classics, both traditional and modern.

Last, but not least, Goodman's are opening a new place where king crab will star alongside the rib eyes and sirloin. So will crab be the new lobster? Who cares, but 2014 looks like another cracking 12 months for the London eater. Have a very happy, and well fed, New Year.

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It's not strictly correct listing the new VQ as a 'bar' as it can be a whole manner of things to different people: an early morning café for commuters, an evening destination for party people, or even an early hours restaurant for those feeling peckish at 2am. Yes, this is a 24 hour venue for those living life to the full.

Minutes away from the British Museum, this is the second VQ, following on from 18 years of success down in Chelsea. You can see why the concept works: the look is warm and inviting, service good, and a menu that will keep everyone happy.

The Richmond Resident team had ventured into town to celebrate the impending nuptials of a colleague, so the reason for our visit was very much about enjoying a night out. The layout was perfect for the 12 of us, and the espresso cocktails to start certainly got the party going. Satisfying, winter warming food was ordered all round: their cheeseburger was cooked to perfection, the chilli hot dog didn't shirk on the spice, and the smaller nibbles such as the Merquez sausages were gratefully devoured.

New York is the place that never sleeps, but the likes of VQ is helping London stake a claim to the crown.

Mark Kebble

✤ 111a Great Russell Street WC1B 3NQ; 020 7636 5888; vq24hours.com

New York never sleeps, but VQ is helping London stake a claim to the crown

LUNCH FOR TWO AROUND
£30 with wine

GOOD FOR
California-themed food that's fresh and organic where possible

WHAT TO EAT
The super halloumi salad with added chorizo

WHAT TO KNOW
Hally's will open for evening meals in early 2014!

RATING ★★★★★

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Hally's in Parsons Green

Last summer Anna Halliday and her then boyfriend Philip Beatty (now fiancé) returned from a life-changing trip to California. They'd been blown away by the freshness and quality of the food there and came home with grand plans to bring a taste of Cali back to SW6. Hally's opened its doors in June.

Inside, its bright and breezy decor is a nod to its American muse. Hally's is currently open for breakfast and lunch but will be serving suppers in the New Year. Exciting times are afoot if the lunch menu we sampled is anything to go by. I expect the evening menu (which the chef wants to 'ramp up') to really impress.

It was a busy mid-week lunchtime when we visited, but the floor staff were attentive and professional. They're the 'lifeblood' of the team, says Anna. The lunch menu has old favourites and there are daily specials, including three changeable salads. A sucker for seasonal ingredients, I didn't hesitate before ordering the lentil, halloumi, butternut squash, avocado, rocket and sundried tomato salad (£10) with added chorizo (an extra £2.50). The halloumi was fried, which added a delectable crunch to the softness of the squash and the avocado. The added cooked chorizo enhanced the flavour and all ingredients combined beautifully in an explosion of winter taste.

My lunch guest, Rachel, had her heart set on a warming, comfort-food lunch and so plumped for the burger (£10), which did not disappoint. We washed our food down with a carafe of wine (there are currently six whites, six reds, three bubblies and three rosés on the wine list). A plethora of exciting soft drinks and craft beers are available too.

To finish, we shared moreish chocolate brownie with soured cream and a pot of English Breakfast tea. It may be a healthy California-themed restaurant but its sweet treats are excellent too.

✤ 60 New King's Road London SW6 4LS; 020 3302 7408; info@hallysparsonsgreen.com

A winning combo of lentil, halloumi, butternut squash, avocado, rocket and sundried tomato

Cooking up a STORM

The Bingham, Cook & Garcia, Linnea and The White Hart... Emily Manson explains why these four places will be foodie hotspots in 2014

Living, as we do, in the culinary mecca that is west London, here are some hot tips for places to put on your gastronomical 'to do' list for this year, along with what they do best and why we think they're hot.

THE DELI: COOK & GARCIA DELICATESSEN, RICHMOND

Who? Husband and wife team Janet and Richard Garcia
What's new? It's getting bigger and better with the addition of an extra hot food counter in the original site and second deli on another local high street, as well as concessions within more offices in the area.
Why they're hot? After a quarter of a century heading up top London and country house hotel kitchens, Richard certainly knows how to make his food pack a punch, as proven by their award-winning daily roast sandwich, for which they scooped the Best Independent Sandwich Bar in the UK award last year.
What to expect? Curries, pie and mash and other yummy comfort dishes to see you through the winter – in addition to their award-winning hot roast wraps and salads. They're also launching a new business menu with platters, salads and sweet treats delivered direct to local meeting rooms.
Look out for... New food offers coming with each season, as well as more cakes and sweet treats.
Goal? 'For Richard to be crowned Sandwich King and live happily ever after.'
✤ Unit 1, 25 The Quadrant, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 1DJ; 020 8948 7777

THE GASTROPUB: THE WHITE HART, BARNES

Who? MasterChef finalist Tom Whitaker
What's new? Tom has taken over the culinary reins at the iconic riverside pub's new dining room, the Terrace Kitchen.
Why they're hot? The food is significantly different from usual Young's fare, and Tom's re-writing the manual. The fabulous menu features home-made charcuterie, smoked meat, fish and vegetables, amongst other tantalising surprises.
What to expect? Interesting cuts of meat, home-cured products, and seasonal goodies all showcasing the 'Best of British'. Seasonally changing dishes include Cornish king scallop, coppa, lardo, broad beans and squid ink; glazed shin of Hereford beef, roast bone marrow, shallots, smoked potato croquette, rocket purée and watercress; and whole roasted dab, crispy laver bread, cock crab and sea vegetables.
Look out for… Tom's own smoked goodies from his on-site smokery, especially his mum's secret recipe for smoked salmon.
Signature dish: Smoked egg French toast served with brioche, wild mushrooms and seared duck heart.
Goal? 'That people enjoy my food and want to come back.'

✤ The Terrace, Riverside, Barnes SW13 0NR; 020 8876 5177

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: LINNEA, KEW GREEN

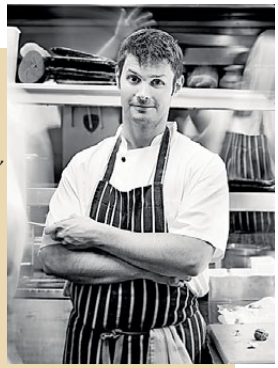
Who? Jonas Karlsson, the chef patron.
What's new? They've just opened! They are trying to create a great place that's affordable for everyone to come out and eat a nice dinner in a warm friendly environment.
Why they're hot? Swedish-born Jonas has 20 years of cheffing under his belt including Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor and Coq D'Argent. In this, his first solo venture, he's tapping into his heritage and serving up some very en-vogue home cuisine – it's all the rage – alongside a modern European influenced menu.
What to expect? Food that uses some traditional French cooking techniques, but is a little bit unusual and lighter than classic French cuisine. Jonas' Swedish influences mean there's lots of smoked meat and fish on the menu.
Look out for… The set menu at £27.50 for 2 courses or £32.50 for 3, as well as the Swedish delicacy glogg – a delicious mulled wine ice cream.
Signature dish? Marinated gravad beef, a traditional Swedish dish of marinated beef made a la gravalax, served with horseradish and green beans.
Goal? 'To have a healthy business, a full restaurant and happy staff.'

✤ 12 Kew Green TW9 3BH; 020 8940 5696

THE FINE DINING HOTEL: THE BINGHAM HOTEL

Who? Mark Jarvis and Davide Durante are the new team at The Bingham. With an impressive pedigree background, head chef Mark comes from the Blueprint Café, having previously worked at Texture and Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons. Meanwhile, restaurant manager Davide can include Marco Pierre White, The Lansbury, The Ritz and The Bulgari hotels on his CV.
Why they're hot? Taking over from Shay Cooper is a challenge, but the boys have got a new team and are determined to maximise the potential of the picturesque riverside hotel's restaurant.
What to expect? Informal and relaxed but impeccable service, as well as subtle new additions.
Signature dish? Quail with butternut squash puree, savoury muesli, quinoa and barley.
Look out for… The tasting menu, with accompanying wines, to get a full flavour of the new experience.
Goal? 'To be recognised as one of the best restaurants in London.'

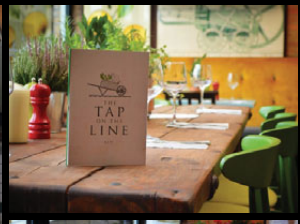
✤ 61-63 Petersham Road TW10 6UT; 020 8940 0902



FULLER'S
CHISWICK

TAP ON THE LINE

The Tap on the Line in Kew, the only pub that sits on a London Underground station, has reopened after an extensive refurbishment & restoration.



Decor has been inspired by the Victorian era, London & South West Rail (who built the building!) & the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Delicious pastries & takeaway coffees served from 8am Monday - Friday.

New lunch & dinner menus feature homemade creative & classic dishes which are locally sourced where possible.

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www.**detailplus**.co.uk

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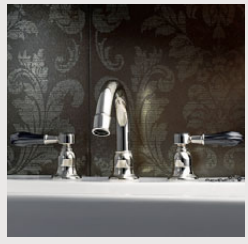
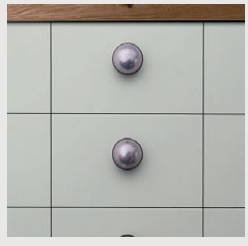
glass knobs



samuel heath



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THINGS WE LOVE

Alex Monroe 18ct gold fine Twig Rings, £132 each
Liberty, Regent Street W1B 5AH; 0207 734 1234; liberty.co.uk

Bisou Bisou Rose Lace Bra, £57
Netaporter.com

Kurt Geiger nude patent leather shoes, £250
George Street TW9 1HA; kurtgeiger.com

essential STYLE

By Shona Wallace

NICE KNITS

The New Year is the ideal opportunity to revamp your wardrobe with a few staple knits. Add a preppy touch to your look with this collared sweater from Jaeger (£99; jaeger.co.uk). Pair with a pleated skirt for work and leather pants for the weekend. For a contemporary take on a classic, complete your new look with a statement sweatshirt like this pretty pearl embellished style at Zara (£35.99; zara.com).

Hobbs No 1 Collection Alexandra Spot Sweater, £179; worn over Alexandra Roll Neck, £159,
8 Church Street KT1 1RJ; 020 8546 4770; hobbs.co.uk

The Richmond resident LOVES

CLASSIC NEW HANDBAGS

Sophie Hulme Envelope Bag, £295,
Netaporter.com

NW3 Wakefield Satchel, £149
Hobbs, 8 Church Street KT1 1RJ; 020 8546 4770; hobbs.co.uk

Meli Melo Thela Stone handbag, £550
melimelo.co.uk

Wishing *all* babies born in 2013 the *joy* of family, the *gift* of love and the *best* of health.

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Bags of STYLE

Alice Horlick tells The Richmond Resident about the inspiration behind AEVHA London and what she loves best about shopping in Barnes

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START A HANDBAG LABEL?

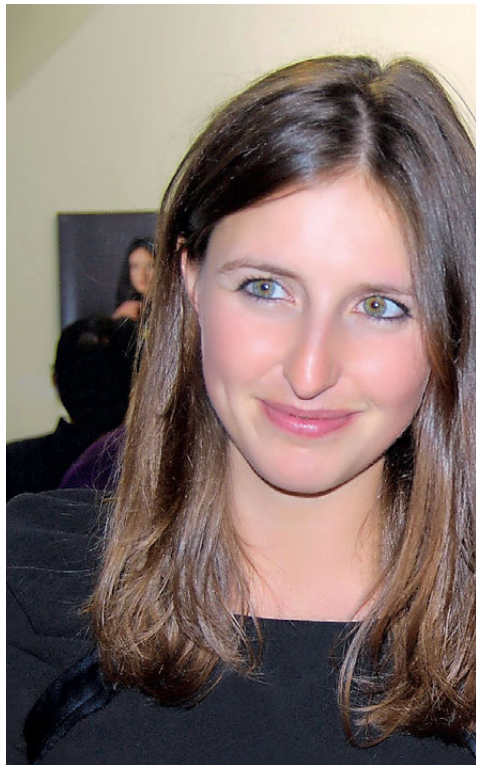
It was the use of leather during my initial study of womenswear at the London College of Fashion that first pointed me in the direction of accessory design. I became devoted to it as a medium and as my style developed I realised that the need not to have to design for different body shapes gave me much more creative freedom. I also loved the concept of the luxury handbag, an item that is so personal and functional, yet can pull an entire outfit together instantly.

DESCRIBE THE AEVHA 'LOOK'...

The AEVHA look channels London's edgy reputation as a fashion capital, evoking a sense of timeless elegance whilst always making a striking design statement. The current autumn/winter 13/14 collection juxtaposes classically sculptural form with intricate design detailing, such as the use of hand carved camel bone handles, bespoke embossing and the softest rabbit fur.

WHERE DID YOU SEEK INSPIRATION FOR YOUR FIRST COLLECTION?

Whilst I use upcoming trends as a starting point, the design process quickly takes over, with my fascination for details and textures taking the lead. This debut autumn/winter 13/14 collection is a conceptually black collection, creating a neutral canvas through which to showcase the intricate details I so enjoyed designing, such as the bespoke embossing, quilting embellishments and hand carved camel bone handles from India. I was also inspired by the concept of juxtaposition of textures, contrasting the core leather of the collection with the softest black rabbit fur, an alternative score-finished leather or intricate stitching embellished panels.



> I loved the concept of the luxury handbag, an item that is so personal and functional, yet can pull an outfit together

WHO ARE THE BAGS AIMED AT?

I always have a strong image of the AEVHA London woman in my head during my design process. She is a woman who likes to make a design statement in her everyday wear whilst appreciating the refined and discreet luxury of an undiscovered brand. She appreciates pieces that are trans-seasonal with a sense of the modern classic about them that she can bring out again and again. With this in mind, she has an eye for the finest materials and quality, valuing pieces with the longevity that comes with Italian craftsmanship and unique design features. She is equally conscious of functionality and looks for a well-designed interior structure, which is just as important as a striking exterior.

ARE THERE PLANS TO DEVELOP THE BRAND BEYOND HANDBAGS?

Yes, absolutely. At the moment I am looking into developing smaller accessories, such as wallets and 'technology accessories', and I am always interested in collaborations so there may be some interesting limited edition items in the pipeline soon.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE SHOPS IN BARNES?

B London beachwear boutique on Barnes High Street always provides a happy escape on a rainy day and I love stopping at the interior design store Barbed, tucked away just behind the high street, to see what inspiring new pieces they have in store.

✤ Find out more at aevhalondon.com

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Tel: 020 8940 0561 | www.poolsonthepark.com

THREE'S A TREND

Serum saviours

If winter chills and the New Year festivities have taken their toll on your complexion, an intensive serum is your one-stop solution. We're big fans of the ultra-moisturising **Rose Synergy O12 Restoring Facial Serum by Ren, £42 (1)**, that's best for dry and dehydrated skin (available at Space NK, spacenk.com). Gently resurfacing to promote healthier cells, **Clinique's Pore Refining Solutions Serum, £53 (2)**, smoothes away rough patches for a flawless finish (available at John Lewis, johnlewis.com). If it's an anti-ageing solution you're after, **Clarins' New Double Serum, £55 (3)**, is an innovative, two-phase formula rich in plant extracts that targets all aspects of skin ageing (available at Clarins counters and clarins.co.uk).

Edited by Mary-Jane Wilcher

LUXE LOOKS

Sleek chic

For a different take on the sophisticated ballerina buns and twists popularised by this winter's Hitchcock heroine trend, say hello to the asymmetrical side-do. **Prep hair with Toni & Guy's Heat Protection Mist, £6.39, tong into big waves with the BaByliss Curl Secret Styler, £119.99, coil loosely to one side, tucking stray ends under, and secure.** Finish with a fine coat of hairspray.

SPA REVIEW

Wyndham Grand Hotel

Set overlooking the marina at the Wyndham Grand Hotel at Chelsea Harbour, the Blue Harbour Spa is the perfect spot to indulge in some pampering. The spa uses a range of first-rate brands, including Russie Blanche. We booked in for a Russie Blanche signature massage, and the experience was a truly tranquil one – Russian massage techniques ease away aches and pains, whilst a post-treatment lie down in the spa's dreamy relaxation room paved the way to a feeling of perfect calm. From £75 for 60 minutes.

✤ Wyndham Grand, Chelsea Harbour SW10 0XG; 020 7300 5011; blueharbourspa.co.uk

EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

If you buy one thing this month…

Make it Guerlain's Crazy Illuminating Meteorite Pearls, £35.50, a gorgeous skin-finishing collection of pastel, unifying, and translucent shades to give a radiant, natural glow.

✤ Available at House of Fraser; houseoffraser.co.uk

MALE ORDER

A perfect pick-me-up, Murad men's facial is a 30 minute treatment using pomegranate and ginkgo biloba extracts to fight inflammation and the effects of pollution and sun exposure, leaving skin fresh. Natural fruit enzymes clear trapped impurities, while sodium PCA softens. A shoulder massage is included for maximum relaxation.

✤ From £30 for 30 minutes. Available at leading spas and salons. To find your nearest stockist, visit murad.co.uk

Island of WONDER

Kat Hopps is won over by the magic of Mauritius

Le Morne mountain creates the perfect scenic backdrop at the Dinarobin resort

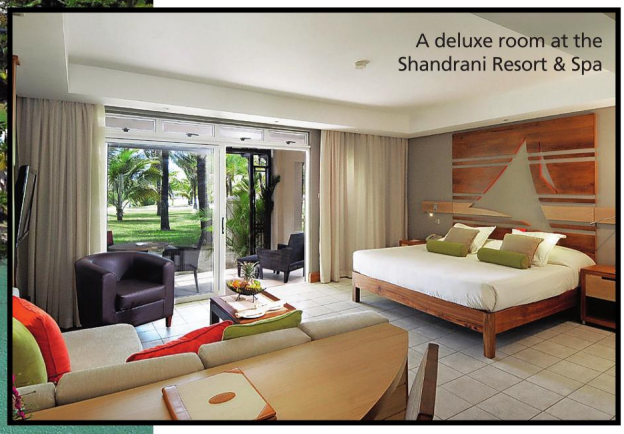
Mentioning a forthcoming holiday to Mauritius tends to elicit one type of response, 'wow' – and not without the faintest hint of jealousy. Undoubtedly, this tranquil island off the south-eastern coast of Africa has earnt its reputation as one of the most beautiful paradises in the world. As an islander once told Mark Twain, 'Mauritius was made first and then heaven; and heaven was copied after Mauritius.'

My stay in heaven was not long – after a 12 hour flight from Heathrow, there were just four days to assimilate into island life, dip my toes into turquoise seas and be enchanted by the rare wildlife on show. Thankfully, it doesn't take long. Mauritians are big on warm welcomes and we experienced plenty of them. Our first stop was the fully-inclusive five star Shandrani Resort & Spa, a Beachcomber Hotel property which sits on a private peninsula on the south-eastern coast encircled by three white sandy beaches. Not only a destination for families and watersports enthusiasts – Shandrani boasts the only National Geographic PADI-Diving Centre in the Indian Ocean and has a certified sailing club – the hotel has two Clarins spas where you can enjoy a relaxing treatment under a thatched roof. The resort's surroundings are luscious and you are sorely tempted to walk barefoot in the gardens as you stroll by hibiscus and frangipani trees and wave to friendly staff who pass you by on golf buggies. One surprise was the low flying planes above the beach but considering there are only a tiny number of flights a day, it doesn't feel intrusive.

The all-inclusive aspect provides an excellent opportunity to sample foods at all five restaurants, a highlight being the exquisite Thai food at The Teak Elephant, which hosts 50 guests at one time. Should you indulge in cocktails, a short walk to one of the 327 villas is never far away – the accommodation ranges from family apartments to superior beach front apartments, complete with stunning sea views.

The spectacular aerial view over Shandrani Resort & Spa

Clarins treatments are offered at Dinarobin's serene idyllic spa

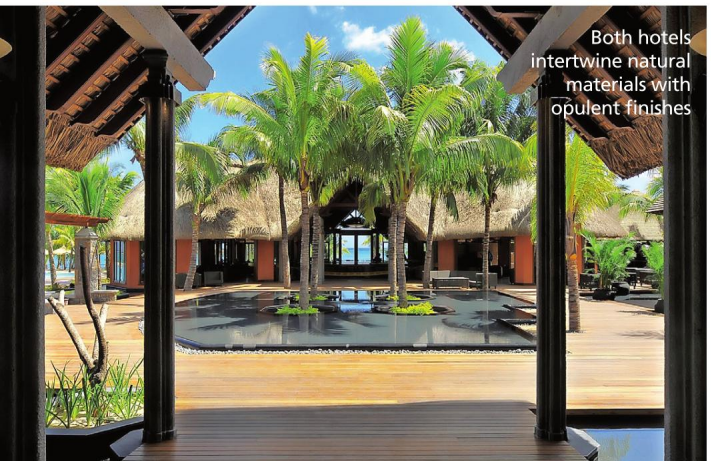


A deluxe room at the Shandrani Resort & Spa

TAKE ME THERE

The next morning we departed for Ile aux Aigrettes, a protected nature reserve run by local NGO, The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF). A 30 minute boat trip later along the rugged coastline and we had arrived at the small 27 hectare island. Conservation is a big issue, and no wonder for this is the country from which the famous extinct dodo bird originated – now a national mascot. We encountered wonders including the elusive pink pigeon and the Telfair's Skink reptile, a species that can only be found in Mauritius. I was even lucky enough to encounter the awesome giant tortoise Big Daddy, the 300kg so-called 'boss' of the island.

Our second destination was Dinarobin Hotel Golf & Spa, another Beachcomber property located on the west coast. Bordering another highly prestigious hotel, the Paradis Hotel & Golf Club, the two share exclusive facilities all overlooked by the rugged Le Morne mountain that towers above the coastline in a protective manner. It's obvious why this is a destination for honeymooners. You are awed by the sheer beauty of the dramatic backdrop, and the endless stretch of clean, quiet coastline emphasises your small existence in an unspoilt place. For pamper lovers, there is a deluxe Clarins spa and garden pools facing toward the beach. There is also a host of new luxurious villas where guests can enjoy outdoor dining on wooden decking. I stayed in a luxe junior suite, featuring a spacious bathroom with walk-in shower and large bathtub.



Both hotels intertwine natural materials with opulent finishes

Many guests come for the superb golf facilities which adjoin the Paradis hotel, just a short golf buggy ride away from Dinarobin. Sampling an introductory golf lesson – and realising that my paltry swing required many more hours of practice, I could, however, easily imagine the joy such a place would bring to any serious lover of the sport with its access to three championship golf courses and long green fairways. Another recommended activity is at the Black River Bay where wild dolphins visit in the mornings to swim with snorkelling tourists – my experience will be remembered forever.

Should you prefer to indulge more basic needs, you're be spoilt with the delicious range of food on offer whether it's fresh seafood dish or Italian cuisine. Guests are welcome to access nine of the restaurants, including those at Paradis, so dining out always delivers a new discovery, much like the island itself.

✤ beachcomber-hotels.com

TRIP NOTES

✤ Peak season from October to April is hot, humid and rainy and temperatures run from 26°C to 32°C. Winter is between May and October where temperatures run between 20° and 26°

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

Save up to 25% on accommodation costs for travel 1 May to 30 November 2014:

✤ Shandrani Resort & Spa: 7 nights in a Classic Room on an all-inclusive basis including Economy Class flights with Air Mauritius and hotel transfers from £1,775 per person sharing – discount inclusive.

✤ Dinarobin Resort & Spa: 7 nights in a Junior Suite on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis including Economy Class flights with Air Mauritius and hotel transfers from £1,980 per person sharing – discount inclusive.

✤ Call Beachcomber Tours on 01483 445 685 or visit beachcombertours.co.uk: please quote 'The Resident' when booking to redeem this offer

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Independent Schools Inspectorate 2010

Open Mornings

9.30am Wednesday, 22nd January 2014

9.30am Thursday, 6th February 2014

9.30am Wednesday, 12th March 2014

9.30am Wednesday, 30th April 2014

Please phone to register your attendance at one of our Open Mornings on 0208 846 9153 or mail Secretary@rpps.co.uk

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www.rpps.co.uk

MINI resident

Baby bubbles

Created by two ex magazine editors and mums who spotted a gap in the market for baby products that are pure, luxurious and effective, Love Boo is the latest word in kid's cosmetics. And the best news is, as well as Love Boo Baby, there's Love Boo Mummy too…

✤ See the full range at loveboo.com

Bespoke bags

These personalised backpacks from Pink Lining are an amazing way for little ones to show off their creative talents – the window on the front can showcase A4-size drawings, which can be changed as often as you'd like, meaning no-one will get bored!

✤ pinklining.com

Brand New at **Newland House**

Newland House Pre-Prep has just benefitted from an exciting transformation. Their renovation project has included extensive enhancements and has created a stimulating and complementary habitat in which the school can enrich and encourage learning. The Pre-Prep is critical in providing children with a sound platform on which to build their academic careers and a safe, warm and colourful learning environment contributes enormously to the success of this process.
The school offers friendly, co-educational teaching from the age of four and is a natural choice for many local families.

✤ Email admissions@newlandhouse.net or call 020 8865 1305 to arrange an individual tour

Musical talents?

Mark Walker's Have-a-Go Drum Show is the perfect opportunity for the whole family to try something new for 2014. Learn about percussion and let off some steam at the show, which is hosted by Barnes Music Society, and on 25 January at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church. Suitable for children up to the age of 10. Tickets free for children and £7.50 for adults.

✤ To find out more and to book visit barnesmusicsociety.org.uk

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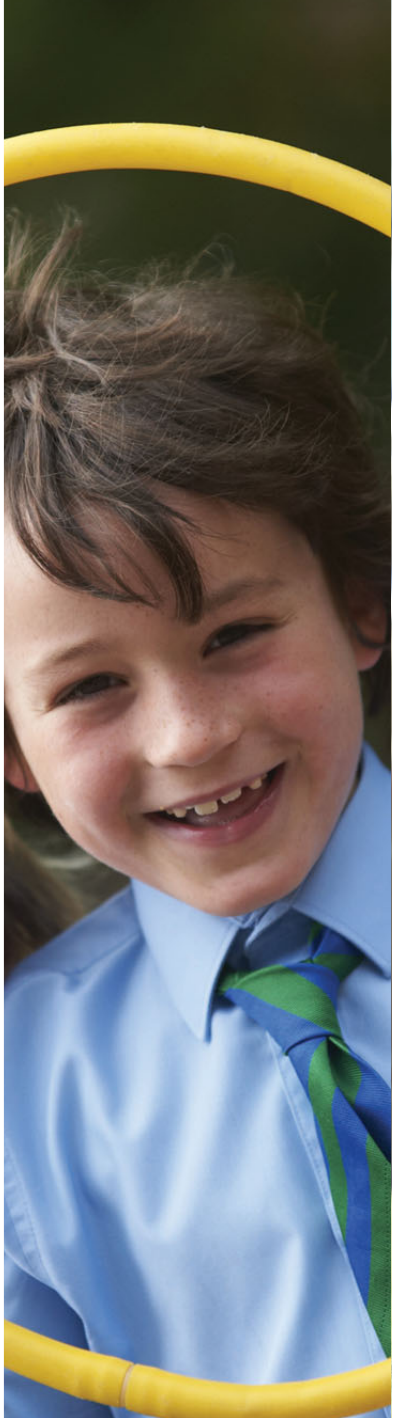

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www.kgps.co.uk

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9:15am Wednesday, 5th February 2014

9:15am Wednesday, 5th March 2014

9:15am Wednesday, 19th March 2014

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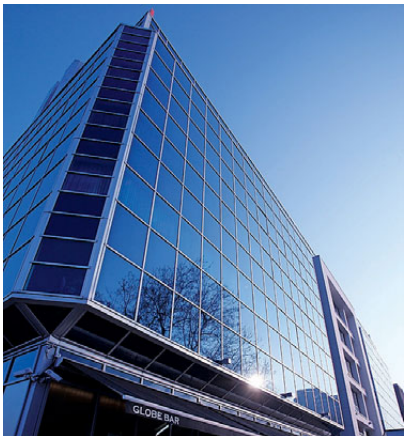


SEASONAL SPIRIT

As autumn rapidly turns to winter and the long dark evenings start to close in, local hotel and business conference venue the Chiswick Moran has lots in store to take the edge off the chill. Both their Napa Restaurant and Globe Bar will be changing their menus to reflect the freshest seasonal produce. The run up to Christmas also sees the return of their ever-popular festive 'joiner' parties, where colleagues, families or local residents in groups from two to 100 people can join others and enjoy a three course dinner, welcome drink and DJ until late. Why not consider it for a social gathering?

✤ chiswickmoranhotel.com

Revolutionary new rental service for landlords

Now well established, but causing quite a stir in the rental industry, is a revolutionary property management business called The Happy Tenant Company. The organisation, which manages over £500 million worth of properties within the M25, offers a unique service to landlords that saves them considerable sums of money as well as improving yields.

Jonathan Monjack, founder and chief executive, says: 'A fundamental element of The Happy Tenant Company's ethos is total integrity and transparency.'

✤ Find out more at happytenant.co.uk

SET GOALS YOU CAN REALLY ACHIEVE

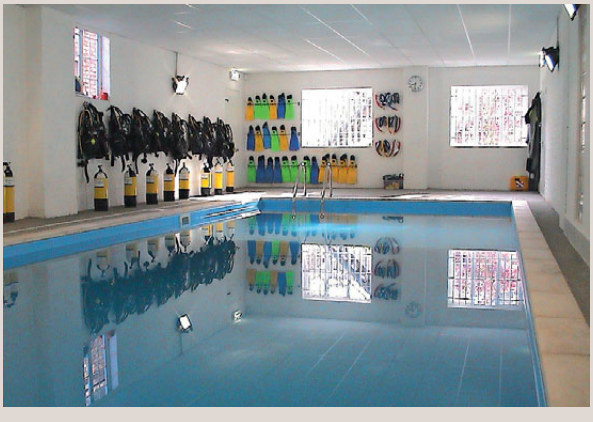
This January when you decide to get back in shape or decide to shed the pounds you've gained over the festive season, give yourself some realistic targets. By setting goals you will achieve so much more.

When you join Pools on the Park you will have a one-to-one session with your trainer, agree your goals and then set regular review appointments. They shall help monitor and encourage you, and by actually seeing and feeling the difference you will remain motivated for longer.

We know that the gym is not for everyone so we highly recommend trying their fitness classes. Group exercise has been proven to be one of the most successful and fun ways to achieve your fitness goals. We are social creatures, so it makes sense to workout together and with over 70 classes to choose from every week you will never be bored.

Us locals are very lucky that at Pools on the Park they have two 33 metre pools; one indoor and one outdoor in the summer. Swimming is a great all over body workout in itself and ideal for anyone looking to start exercising again after injury. It will work all your major muscle groups and improve your cardio fitness. So no more excuses. Set goals and get what YOU want (with a little help from the experts of course).

✤ Old Deer Park, Twickenham Road TW9 2SF; 020 8940 0561



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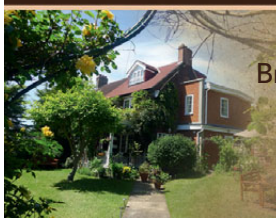

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PROPERTY

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KEW, TW9 £899,950 LEASEHOLD

A three bedroom, fourth floor apartment with river views. Approx. 1,410 sq ft, featuring a large reception room with private balcony, master bedroom with en-suite and balcony, separate kitchen with utility room, guest bathroom, lift, video entry phone security system and allocated parking space. EPC rating B/C.

RICHMOND HILL, TW10 £850,000 SHARE OF FREEHOLD

This top floor flat offers stunning views from Richmond Hill across the Terrace Gardens, the Thames and beyond. Situated within a converted Victorian house the flat has circa 1050 sqft (97.5 sqm), off street parking, two reception rooms, two well proportioned double bedrooms and two bathrooms. EPC rating D.

RICHMOND, TW9 £715,000 SHARE OF FREEHOLD

With circa 949 sq ft (88 sq m) of space this newly converted flat makes entertaining easy with a well proportioned kitchen dining room. Also offers a separate reception room, two double bedrooms, an en-suite and a bathroom. Outside there is gated parking and a private rear garden. EPC rating C.

RICHMOND, TW9 £499,950 SHARE OF FREEHOLD

A first floor two bedroom flat with unconverted loft located within 1/4 mile of Richmond station and town centre. The property benefits from an open plan reception room / kitchen with contemporary units and wooden style flooring as well as a stylish modern bathroom suite. EPC rating D.

TEDDINGTON, TW11 £695,000 LEASEHOLD

An exceptional third floor two bedroom apartment in this stunning Grade II listed building situated between Richmond and Kingston Town centres. Circa 1194 sq ft (111 sqm).

RICHMOND, TW9 £475,000 LEASEHOLD

Freshly decorated, 721 sq ft garden flat in a grand Victorian house. A brand new contemporary kitchen, a modern bathroom and a lease of over 900 years remaining also come with the property as does direct access to a lovely communal garden. EPC rating D.

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HAM COMMON, TW10 £4000 PER CALENDAR MONTH

A four bedroom house overlooking Ham Common. The property offers a large courtyard, double reception room with wooden floors, further reception room, conservatory, kitchen, two bathrooms and w.c. Double length garage and ideal for the German School. Circa 1745 sq ft (162 sq m). EPC rating E.

RICHMOND HILL, TW10 £3950 PER CALENDAR MONTH

A four bedroom, two bathroom, purpose built apartment on the ever popular Richmond Hill. Situated on the fifth floor (with lift) this property offers good light and with two interconnecting reception rooms, great entertaining space too. Circa 1571 sq ft (145 sq m) EPC rating C.

RICHMOND, TW9 £3300 PER CALENDAR MONTH

A comfortably furnished three bedroom Victorian character property with high ceilings in a convenient location for access to the town centre and Richmond station. Also with front patio garden. Circa 1270sq ft (118 sq m). EPC rating E.

KEW, TW9 £2750 PER CALENDAR MONTH

We are pleased to offer this furnished third floor two bedroom apartment situated in a luxury riverside development by the Thames with conservatory, off street parking, ensuite shower room, additional bathroom and views from the balcony over the River Thames. Circa 1119 sq ft (104 sq m). EPC rating C.

RICHMOND, TW9 £2200 PER CALENDAR MONTH

A brand new Victorian warehouse style, one / two bedroom split level houses located in a desirable central Richmond location close to the River Thames, with underfloor heating throughout powered by ground source heat pumps, hopefully making those heating bills somewhat smaller! Predicted EPC rating B.

RICHMOND HILL, TW10 £1700 PER CALENDAR MONTH

A two double bedroom split level apartment overlooking the River Thames. Large reception room, separate modern kitchen, two good sized double bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property further benefits from underground parking. EPC rating D. Circa 828 sq ft (77 sq m).

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Property NEWS

Local lettings continue to grow

As 2013 draws to a close, Caroline Kavanagh, Managing Director of Townends Lettings & Management, says improved activity in the sales market has not hampered demand in the private rental sector (PRS), which continues to outstrip supply in many areas, particularly London.

Affordability remains a big factor for many tenants and although rents have not risen in 2013 at rates previously experienced, they have still remained at a level that has driven many tenants to consider what constitutes value for money.

Caroline says: 'This year, we have seen a higher number of landlords prepared to wait to achieve their asking price, even if it has ended up costing them void time to a greater value, just to hold their price. Landlords should be planning for the future and working out a manageable way to keep their properties in peak condition so that they can justify commanding a certain level of rent. Tenants won't pay over the odds, especially if the property doesn't tick all the boxes.'

Looking forward to 2014 Caroline believes that the long term renter is becoming a more permanent fixture in the UK's buy-to-let culture, regardless of external factors. 'This bodes well for 2014, as we anticipate seeing more landlords taking advantage of better rates or alternatively releasing equity in order to fund future portfolio growth' she says.

For more information visit Towends.co.uk

2014 property forecast

8% House price growth in central London: Hamptons International

3% House price growth in prime central London: Savills

115,000 Transaction numbers in London: Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward

3.5% Growth in central London rents: Cluttons

✤ Typical property

A range of period houses dating from Victorian to 1920's

✤ Typical price

Period 5 bed semi £1.2m; Period Terrace 4 beds £1.1m; 3 bed terrace requiring work £850,000

✤ Typical buyer

Local families and London buyers moving into the area to benefit from the borough's excellent schools

STREET OF THE MONTH

Holmes Road, TW1

Holmes Road is located in Strawberry Hill, a highly desirable and popular area adjacent to Radnor Gardens and the River Thames. Situated just a short distance from local village shops, and great coffee bars, Strawberry Hill railway station is nearby and half a mile from Twickenham town centre.

The historic gothic revival castle of Strawberry Hill House, built by Horace Walpole in 1749 is central to the area and is just around the corner.

This appealing road attracts local and London based families drawn by its village-like feel, period architecture and the close proximity of a number of excellent schools which attract parents.

At the end of the road is the Alexander Pope Hotel and public house, formerly the 'Pope's grotto', taking its name from the poet Alexander Pope, who had a house on the banks of the Thames near the site of the pub.

Holmes Road has been very successful for us; within the last 12 months we have sold five houses here and let one, all achieving record breaking prices.

✤ Michael Webster, Managing Director, Websters Estate Agents; 020 8892 2800

Properties to buy and rent in your area

LOCAL LUXE

Temple Sheen Road SW13

Situated within a highly sought after Parkside residential area of East Sheen, this period terrace house offers well proportioned accommodation arranged over two floors including three bedrooms, a reception room, extended contemporary kitchen and bifold doors onto a private lawned rear garden.

✤ Chancellors.co.uk; 0208 940 2255

Stanmore Road SW13

An elegant and beautifully presented conversion apartment located only a short walk away from Richmond town centre. This spacious property is offered furnished and can be used as either a one or two bedroom apartment. The lower ground floor of the property has been converted into a study/office space with excellent storage. Available mid January 2014.

✤ Richmond Bridge Residential; 020 8892 2244

Laubin Close TW1

An exceptional family house built by Octagon and set within its own private, gated development. Accommodation includes 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, cloakroom, reception room, kitchen/family room, utility, study, garden, garage and off-street parking. EPC rating C. Approximately 269 sq m.

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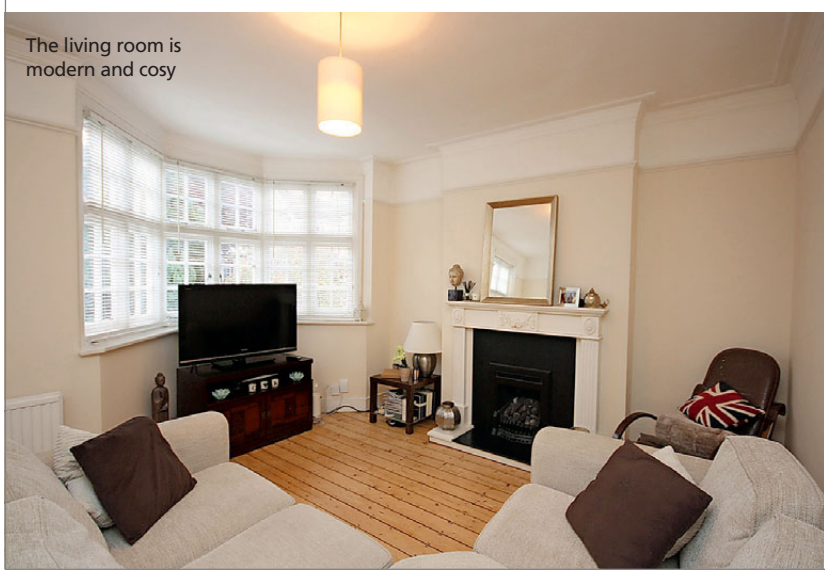
The living room is modern and cosy

This larger than average end of terrace house with an unusually wide west facing garden is located on Milton Road SW14, a popular central Sheen cul de sac, close to Mortlake Station. Occupying a bold corner position, the property has a large private garden, detached garage and larger than average bay-front living room and master bedroom. There is an entrance hall, two reception rooms, two double bedrooms, a study and a bathroom. Subject to all relevant permissions and consents being obtained, the property could be extended to the ground and first floors and into the loft.

✤ Robinson Residential 020 8392 6140
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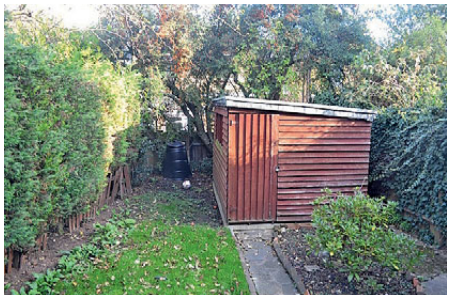

ELMSLEIGH ROAD, TWICKENHAM, TW2 5EF

£1,600 PCM

This three bedroom semi-detached family home is within a good school catchment area. The property offers a through double reception room with kitchen off to the right. French doors leading to good size rear garden. Upstairs consists of two double bedrooms and one single bedroom, bathroom with overhead shower. Off street parking, large back garden close to all amenities. Available to move in immediately. Unfurnished. EPC rating E

The joy of Twickenham

Jacqui Dickinson, Residential Lettings Manager at Milestone & Collis on local life and her greatest achievements

How did you start in property?

Having worked in the events industry for 20 years and travelled the world, I needed some stability in my life. I have always loved property so when I saw an advert in an estate agent's window for a Saturday viewing assistant I leapt at the opportunity and was soon offered a fulltime position. My skills from being a freelance event manager meant my paperwork had to be correct and my files easy for anyone to look at which made me perfect for the job. With hard work and a determination to do well both for myself and the company I work for I try and keep everyone happy – from landlords to staff and my MD.

Do you have a favourite local street?

Our offices are in one of the most wonderful streets in Twickenham – Church Street with lots of amazing independent shops, cafés and restaurants so I could not ask for more. Coming here to work every day is such a joy. There is a real community spirit in the street and we are getting ready for Christmas when we hand out mulled wine and mince pies.

What achievement are you most proud of?

There have been a few in my life. The first one is when I organised a large corporate event in Cannes and we drank the hotel dry; we had to scurry around and get the other hotels to supply us with more beer which saved the day. Moving into the lettings business was another but most of all was taking my ARLA (Association of Residential Lettings Agents) exam, passing it and becoming a member of ARLA. I hadn't taken an exam since I was at school so I was very proud of myself when I passed!

Do you have a favourite style of property?

I was bought up on a farm in Sussex so I've always tended to go for a more traditional look but as I see more and more different styles of property I realised that I like Georgian and ultra modern homes. Every day is a real eye-opener for me as I get to see how people have done up their houses and I get to see a lot of different designs. Some houses are so great I'd like to live there.

> Church Street is one of the most amazing places in Twickenham with its amazing independent shops and cafes

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Greece. From the first time I visited Rhodes I fell in love with the people and the way of life. I have been visiting the island now for over 25 years and seen the changes that have taken place but each time I arrive it feels like I am home from home. I have been fortunate over the years to have made many good friends both Greek and English who live there and I have supported their businesses back here in the UK. I have also been fortunate to have been invited to Greek Easter celebrations and a christening too. Both were real family and community occasions which I feel privileged to be part of. One day I intend to live there I have already planned the area I'd live in and know the style of property I want.

✤ 0208 744 9383; Milestone-collis.com

Varsity Drive TW1, £1,550pcm

This smart two bed house is immaculately presented and offers larger than average accommodation. The house has an open plan reception room leading onto a conservatory, large master bedroom with built-in wardrobes, second double bedroom and modern kitchen and bathroom. It also benefits from off street parking and a patio rear garden. It is within walking distance of Twickenham station which offers fast links into London Waterloo. EPC rating D. Available furnished at the end of January.

Cantell & Co.
Privately Owned Estate Agents

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Townshend Road, Richmond

POA

This attractive 4/5 bedroom Victorian home benefits from a fabulous 100 ft. west facing garden. It is well presented throughout with 2/3 reception rooms, offering spacious and versatile accommodation. There is a wealth of original features alongside contemporary bath/shower rooms, offering the perfect blend of charm and practical living. With 2 off street parking spaces, this desirable house is located on a quiet residential road, circa 8 minutes' walk from Richmond station with trains and tubes to London Waterloo and London Victoria, taking approx. 17 minutes and 25 minutes, respectively. Richmond has some of the finest schools in the country, Kings House, St Elizabeth's Roman Catholic School, Marshgate and Christs School to name a few.

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